

HA-1793
Early 1930's
Bel Air
Private

The Henry and Effie Lee House, 126 W. Gordon St., faces south on a shady lot at the corner of Richardson St. in Richardson's Addition. Probably built in the early 1930s, it is a small, aluminum sided, single story, 3 bay front-gable cottage, similar to the working-man's cottages on the 100 block of W. Broadway. This block of W. Gordon contains a variety of styles: the Wren Box, a stone cottage on the corner facing Williams street, a front-gable 2 story house, an elegant 4-square, and a cottage similar to this, but smaller.

Building began west of Main St. in Richardson's Addition in the 1880s; it and the Hayes Addition begun at the same time are the oldest extensions of the town. It is a mix of styles from Victorian to brick rancher, and a mix of classes as well, with working-man's housing along the north and south edges and middle class homes through the center. The Henry and Effie Lee House is a simple working-man's cottage similar to those in the 100 block of W. Broadway. Taking the 3/1 windows into consideration, it was probably built in the early 1930s. It does not appear on the 1930 Sanborn insurance map. It, like the others, shows the transition from 2 story shotgun houses for working-men to single story cottages.

HA-1793
Henry and Effie Lee House
Bel Air, Harford Co.

FRAMEWORK FOR IDENTIFYING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

3. Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:

☐ 11. Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930

☒ 12. Modern Period 1930 - present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme:

2. Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community
Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Architecture

Historic Environment: Urban

Historic Function and Use: Private Residence

Known Design Source: unknown

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

LAND AND WATER OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. 7-1789

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Henry and Effie Lee House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 126 W. Gordon St. n/a not for publication

city, town Bel Air ___ vicinity of congressional district 3rd

state MD county Harford

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture ___ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial ___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment ___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government ___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial ___ transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	___ military ___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Ms. Virginia Torgerson

street & number 126 W. Gordon St. telephone no.: 638-2891

city, town Bel Air state and zip code MD 21014

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse liber 514

street & number folio 505

city, town Bel Air state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. HA-1793

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing resource count: one

The Henry and Effie Lee House, 126 W. Gordon St., faces south on a shady lot at the corner of Richardson St. Probably built in the early 1930s, it is a small, aluminum sided, single story, 3 bay front-gable cottage, similar to the working-man's cottages on the 100 block of W. Broadway. This block of W. Gordon contains a variety of styles: the Wren Box, a stone cottage on the corner facing Williams street, a front-gable 2 story house, an elegant 4-square, and a cottage similar to this, but smaller.

The front porch is hipped and carried in 3 square beaded posts, with the 4th a square stock newel, all connected by a square post balustrade. Windows are 3/1 double hung sash, single for the most part, although they are paired in the north bay of the east elevation and in the north 2 bays of the west elevation. A single 3/1 window occupies the gable in the front and rear. A shed stoop carried on 2 square posts shelters the back door in the west bay of the north elevation.

Entry is in the middle bay of the front. The paneled door with 3 long panes up is original. One enters the living room, which occupies 2/3 of the front of the house. Behind that, to the north is the dining room, off of which (to the east) is a door to a small hall which links the two bedrooms on the east side of the house. The bathroom is between them. To the rear of the dining room is the kitchen, with an original cupboard on the north wall; it has glass fronted shelves up and cupboards below. The original porcelain sink with drainboards is on the south wall by the door to the dining room. There is a full basement and a half finished attic with one bedroom in the front.

8. Significance

Survey No. HA-1793

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates early 1930s Builder/Architect unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Building began west of Main St. in Richardson's Addition in the 1880s; it and the Hayes Addition, begun at the same time, are the oldest extensions of the town. It is a mix of styles from Victorian to brick rancher, and a mix of classes as well, with working-man's housing along the north and south edges and middle class homes through the center. The Henry and Effie Lee House is a simple working-man's cottage similar to those in the 100 block of W. Broadway. Taking the 3/1 windows into consideration, it was probably built in the early 1930s. It does not appear on the 1930 Sanborn insurance map. It, like the others, shows the transition from 2 story shotgun houses for working-men to single story cottages.

It is unlikely that the Lees ever lived in the house. They lived, so far as one can tell, next door in HA-1794, the home of Henry's parents, which they inherited on the death of his mother Josephine and his brother Francis. They owned this lot from 1915 when Effie bought it from the owners of Richardson's Addition. Henry, a florist, had greenhouses around the house next door and on this lot. The house was built for them, and they rented it until they sold it to Virginia Torgerson in 1958.

Mrs. Torgerson is the daughter of Glenn Tilley, a real estate agent. She lived two doors east at 122 W. Gordon [HA-1791] and took care of her father after the death of her mother until she bought this place. For some years her sister, Betty Potter, owned the Lee House next door.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. AA-1793

Harford County Land Records.
Site visit, 12 May 1993.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Bel AirQuadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting		Northing						

B

Zone	Easting		Northing						

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Parcel 446 in the Town of Bel Air, 12,288 sq. ft.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Marilyn M. Lareworganization _____ date 6-21-93street & number RD 1 Box 219 New Park Rd. telephone 717-993-3557city or town New Park state PA 17352

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

100 COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

PS-2746

HA-1793
Henry and Effie Lee House
126 W. Gordon St.
Bel Air, MD 21014

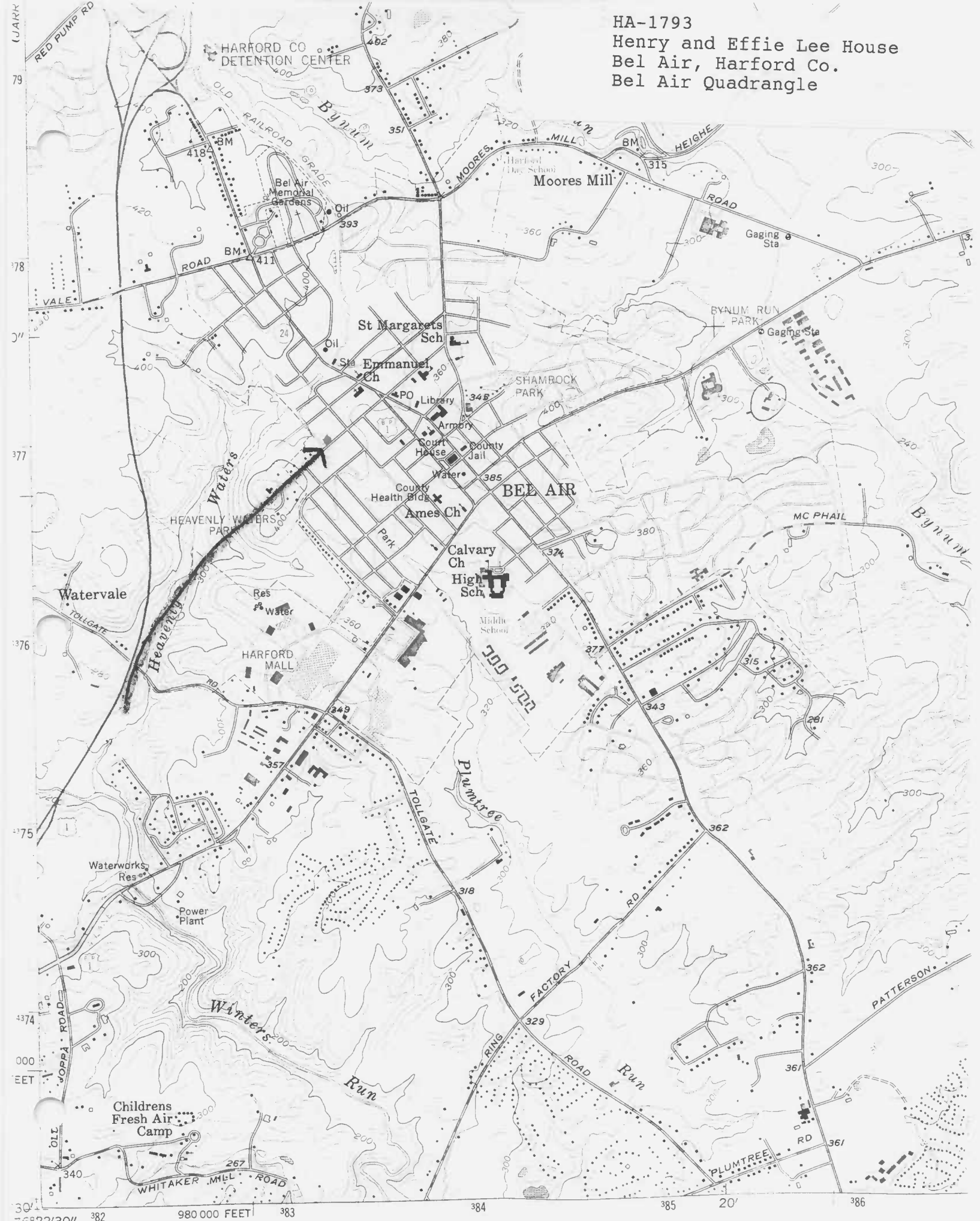
owner: Virginia T. Torgerson

514/505 15 November 1958
 Effie F. Lee and R. Harry, husband
 to
 Virginia T. Torgerson
 lots 20 and 21, block E, Richardson's Addition

part of

486/400 6 August 1957
 straw deed to get R. Henry on
 Zero, Inc.
 to
 Effie F. Lee and R. Henry, husband
 2 parcels
 1. the large lot on Gordon St. sold to Josephine V.
 Lee 21 May 1889 by William S. Richardson et al.
 Josephine died with will 10 April 1919 (16/407).
 Francis L. Lee, her son, and Effie, wife of son R,
 Henry inherited. Francis died with will 15 Sept 1923
 (21/82). Effie inherited. This is 330 W. Gordon.
 2. the lots in question, 20 and 21 of block E. sold by
 153/88, 25 May 1915, Henrietta Rouse and husband to Effie
 F. Lee suggests house after the 1915 sale and a late
 marriage to Henry. Cannot account yet for Effie's having
 the same last name as a maiden. 486/400 definately says
 Henry was husband.

HA-1793
 Henry and Effie Lee House
 Bel Air, Harford Co.
 Bel Air Quadrangle





126 W. GORDON ST.
BEL AIR



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